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BY BOB HORTON

WASHINGTON, APRIL 12, REUTER - CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY DIRECTOR STANSFIELD TURNER SAID TODAY THE LOSS OF U.S.-OPERATED ELECTRONIC STATIONS IN IRAN CUT INTO U.S. ABILITY TO DETECT ANY SOVIET CHEATING ON THE NEARLY COMPLETED NUCLEAR ARMS TREATY.

MR TURNER DECLINED TO SAY HOW MUCH OF AN EROSION THERE HAD BEEN IN U.S. CAPABILITIES FOR VERIFYING SOVIET COMPLIANCE WITH THE SALT II TREATY, OR TO REVEAL WHAT REMEDIES ARE PLANNED.

SPEAKING AT AN OVERSEAS WRITERS LUNCH, HE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT NEWS LEAKS CONCERNING STEPS THE UNITED STATES WOULD TAKE TO OFFSET THE LOSS OF THE IRANIAN LISTENING POSTS.

ONE SUCH STEP ACKNOWLEDGED BY CARTER ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS IS THE PLANNED USE OF IMPROVED U-2 TYPE SPY PLANES OVER FRIENDLY TERRITORY TO PICK UP ELECTRONIC SIGNALS FROM SOVIET MISSILE TESTS.

"THE DAMAGE WHICH HAS BEEN DONE TO OUR COUNTRY ALREADY BY THE IMPROPER REVELATIONS ON THIS SALT (STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TREATY) ISSUE IS SERIOUS," MR TURNER SAID.

HE SAID HE WOULD DETAIL PLANS FOR MONITORING AND VERIFYING SALT II ONLY IN CLOSED SESSION BEFORE THE SENATE, WHICH MUST RATIFY THE TREATY, AND NOT PUBLICLY.

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